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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/643,295	08/18/2003	Michael Gardner	GRD 301	4149

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EXAMINER

MEREK, JOSEPH C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3727

DATE MAILED: 03/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/643,295

Applicant(s)

MICHAEL GARDNER

Examiner

Joseph C. Merek

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 8/18/03
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

Claim Objections

Claim 6 is objected to because of the following informalities: the claim attempts to set forth a range but does not. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless —

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Traverse (US 3,741,434). Regarding claim 1, see Figs. 1-4, where the structure is shown. The inner wall is 24 and the outer wall is 12 and the bridging portion is the rounded corner connecting the inner and outer walls. The concealing apparatus extends down the side of the wastebasket 10 the specified distance as seen in Fig. 4. The open language allows for more as seen in Figs. 1 and 3. Regarding claim 2, the device is capable of pinching the liner 30. Regarding claim 3, see Fig. 4 where the claimed coverage is shown. Regarding claim 4, see Fig. 4. Regarding claims 5 and 6, see Fig. 3. Regarding claim 7, see Figs. 1-4, where the inner wall is angled inward. Regarding claim 8, the angle is about 4 degrees. About is a broad term and the reference satisfies the limitation. Regarding claim 9, the outer wall is angled in relation to the inner wall outward. The angle is about 1 degree. About is a broad term and allows for a large amount of variation from exactly 1 degree. Moreover, the angle of the

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outer wall in relation to the outer wall of the wastebasket is zero (0) and is about 1 degree.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Willis (US 3,944,110). Regarding claim 1, see Fig. 2, where the structure is shown. 20 is the claimed device and covers the claimed range of the wastebasket 14. Regarding claim 2, see Fig. 2, where the structure is capable of pinching a liner installed in the basket. Regarding claims 3 and 4, see Fig. 2, where the device covers the wastebasket within the claimed range. Regarding claim 5, see Fig. 2 where the inner wall is covers the claimed range. Regarding claim 6, as it is best understood, the inner wall extends about 1/7 the height. There is no range claimed. Regarding claim 7, see Fig. 2. Regarding claim 8, the angle is about 4 degrees. About is a broad term and the reference satisfies the limitation. Regarding claims 9 and 10, see Fig. 2, and the angle is about a degree.

Conclusion

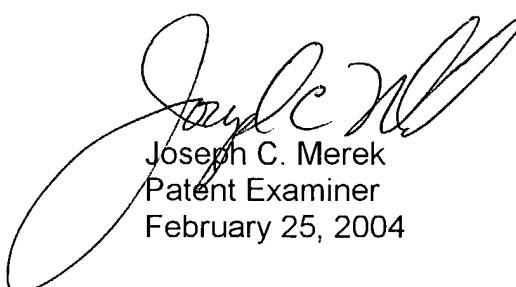
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Bloomfield, White et al, and Meinzinger et al are all cited for their structure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph C. Merek whose telephone number is (703) 305-0644. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lee Young can be reached on (703) 308-2572. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.



Joseph C. Merek
Patent Examiner
February 25, 2004